

**ABSTRACT**

A method for distinguishing between biomolecule and non-biomolecule crystals. The method comprises providing electromagnetic radiation to a sample comprising a crystal, allowing the electromagnetic radiation to interact with components of the crystal, and detecting effected changes, if any, in the quantity or character of the electromagnetic radiation, whereby a biomolecule crystal is capable of being distinguished from a non-biomolecule crystal. A device adapted for distinguishing between biomolecule and non-biomolecule crystals comprises a sample support, a source for a type of electromagnetic radiation, wherein the electromagnetic radiation can be provided to the sample, and a detector for the electromagnetic radiation wherein changes in the quantity or character of the electromagnetic radiation can be detected. The device can comprise more than one source of electromagnetic radiation for providing more than one type of radiation. The device can comprise more than one detector wherein each detector detects a different type of electromagnetic radiation.